5. The removal of the fuel and logs from the area shall be effected after getting proper passes for the same from the department.

6. The fuel and logs extracted from the area shall be stocked for measurement on river bank at convenient places pointed out by the Plantation Ranger.

7. All workmen engaged for the works in the area shall be supplied with passes as required by the departmental rules. The Company will be responsible for any irregularities committed by the workmen in the adjoining forests.

8. All the works in this connection shall be conducted as per instructions that may be issued from time to time by the Conservator of Forests or his duly authorised subordinates.

9. In case the Company fail, neglect or refuse to obey all or any of the stipulations mentioned above, it shall be competent for the Conservator of Forests to cancel the contract and hold the Company liable to any loss or damage that the department may sustain by the non-fulfilment of the terms of the *kychit*, and he may recover such amount as he may fix which shall be accepted by the Company unconditionally without having recourse to any court of law, besides confiscating the deposit amount paid by the Company.

10. The area to be worked consisting of 22·61 acres has been duly taken charge of by the Company on 25th Kanni 1103.

11. For due fulfilment of the contract, the sum of Rs.50 (fifty only) as per chalen No. 725 dated 2nd Edavam 1102 has been deposited in the Trichur Treasury.

I have signed this *kychit* on behalf of the Company on this the day and year first above written before witness noted below.

(Signed) Manager.
22—3—1928.

Witnesses,
1. (Signed).
2. (Signed).

Voting of Demands for Grants (*cont.*)

Demand No. XVIII—Education (*cont.*)—Rs. 12,01,166.

Motions Nos. 10—14.

Primary Education—Boys' Schools.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for "lump sum for additional division of classes and new schools" by Re. 1.*

Grant-in-aid.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,000 for this item.*

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Mrs. G. Pavitran.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,48,055 for "Primary Education—Boys' Schools" by Re. 1.*

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for "Sports Allowance" by Re. 1.*

Mr. K. J. Antony.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 13,09,300 under "Demand No. XVIII" by Re. 1.*

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 13,09,300 under "Demand No. XVIII" by Rs. 100.*

Motion No. 10.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for "lump sum for aaditional division of classes and new schools" by Re. 1.*

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—The object of this motion is to show that considerable difficulty is experienced by Managers of aided schools on account of the rule of the Department that only half the grant would be given to those classes in which there is a deficiency of strength of 30. Yesterday, I had sufficiently explained the matter in seconding a motion of the Hon'ble Member for Antikkad. Now, I have only to say that it is really an impracticable measure that is being forced by the Department upon the Managers of aided schools. This has been brought before the notice of Government on several occasions by the Association of Managers and also, I think, by the Association of Teachers. I do not understand why the same measure is not adopted in the case of Sirkar institutions also. There are several classes in several Sirkar schools in which there is great deficiency in the strength and where no steps of any kind are taken and at the same time such severe punishment is inflicted upon the Managers of the aided schools. So, what I suggest is either the minimum strength may he reduced to a little extent which is now 30 in the case of Boys' Schools and 20 in the case of Girls' Schools. On account of not adopting the same system in the case of Government Schools, it may affect the neighbouring aided schools also. That is, if there are two schools in a particular locality, the aided school, which is neighbouring to the Government insitution, will suffer. So my suggestion is to reduce this minimum strength to 25 (Twenty-five) in the case of Boys' Schools. I think that will be a feasible suggestion, and may I know whether this can be accepted by the Government ?

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Sir, may I know what is the exact saving made by the Government by this new system ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The system of ?

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—What is called the double-shift system.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—I am only speaking about the minimum strength prescribed in aided schools.

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Dr. A. R. Menon.—What is the rule in Travancore? May I know the principle followed there ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The system in Travancore is totally different.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You said that yesterday.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—What they do is according to the qualifications of the teacher they fix a grant, 5 Rs. or 10 Rs. according to the teacher's qualification. They do not bother about the principle and all that. And then it may happen that the teacher gets only that amount. The Department has nothing to do.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I think there is some force in what the Hon'ble Member for Adoor said. The difficulty is this. The teacher has to be paid in full, whether the grant is half or whether the grant is full. He has to be paid, and you give only fourteen annas in the rupee, as grant. Practically the intention of the Government is that the cost of primary education in the country, whether through the means of Sirkar Schools or grant-in-aid private schools, should be met at public cost. I take that to be the rock-bottom principle of the Government.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—No, Sir. Government does not undertake to finance aided schools. Government undertakes aid, that is, subsidies, that is all.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I may explain to this House that there are such statements even publicly made practically to the same effect—when we introduced the question of compulsory primary education in the country in the House. It was stated that practically Government bears the full cost of primary education, because in all grant-in-aid schools also Government pay seven-eighths of the costs of the schools. You pay 14 annas in the rupee for all primary teachers. So practically Government bears the entire cost of primary education in the country, and, therefore, it was that we did not press the cause of compulsory primary education in our country. The trouble according to the Department is that there are not enough schools. There are more than enough boys to go to the schools opened. All the boys of the primary-class-age are in the schools and, therefore, this hardship can only be felt by the Managers. I do not say Government has undertaken to finance private institutions, far from it. When an institution is recognised, you give in the first year almost seven-eighths of the cost of the school and then what happens is in the next year the private Manager finds that a few students are not there sufficient to make the minimum strength in each class. In some classes, he may have five more and in one class he may have 2 or 3 less. Then the difficulty arises I well appreciate the Director's statement in the House that, if you

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are to calculate proportionately according to the number of students that have attended in a particular month, it will give double work. It is true. But the hardship is sometimes due to the opening of another school, a rival school or a Sirkar School. So in any way his strength may come down by a few. He finds that the strength has gone down and in the same way half of his money is gone. That is the hardship that I think the Hon'ble Member for Adoor is seeking to bring out. I think this is a matter worthy of your consideration and my request is Government would kindly consider it.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I think I have made that point clear. As regards the Government's obligation to finance these aided schools, if you will look into *the Education Code*, you will find that, in the chapter on grant-in-aid, the first clause contains the statement that grants cannot be claimed as a matter of right, so that aided schools stand entirely on a different footing from Sirkar Schools. Government finds that a certain amount of money is available for the purpose of giving aid to private schools, and the duty of the Department is equitably to divide that amount among the schools. As I said yesterday, a certain amount of discretionary power is given to the Director, and, if you will look into the statistics of aided schools, you will find very many aided schools, that do not have this minimum strength of 30, do get full grant. We give concessions on behalf of Boys' Schools and we give concessions on behalf of Girls' Schools. We take the local circumstances into consideration. All these things are taken into account. But then there is one prime fact to be considered. It all depends on the availability of funds.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We understand that.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—So that, when a Manager finds that his numbers have gone down, he would be quite within his rights to place all his grounds for special consideration before the Department, and then it is for the Department to decide whether the circumstances that he has urged are sufficient to grant the concession asked for.

As I told you yesterday, there are more than 60 recognised schools working to-day without receiving a pie of grant. That fact has also to be considered. In trying to be just and merciful to one party, you should not be hard and cruel to another. There are about 65 schools now working in the hope of getting grant. So the question is, will you be justified in extending concessions to old schools, and thereby starving schools that have been opened and that stand in urgent need of help and which have long been working in the expectation of receiving aid?

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Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—I support this motion, Sir. The Government has been benefitted very much by the starting of private schools by Managers. If the Managers of private schools had not done so, the Government, besides incurring the full expenditure for the pay of the teachers and other establishment charges, would have to put up buildings in almost every village of the State. Now, when the people are rendering great help towards promoting education in the State, it has to be encouraged by the Government as much as possible. Now the minimum strength in schools has been raised a little higher, as was mentioned by the Hon'ble Member for Education, as a war measure.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The maximum was raised and not the minimum. The minimum is in *the Code*.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—In *the Code* I think it is only 25. So, am I to understand that 30 in Boys' Schools and 20 in Girls' Schools has been amended?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—No.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—From the statistics with respect to the Education Department, we find that the expenditure for every student studying in Government schools is more than double than that of a student studying in private school. So, as it is, the Managers are incurring the other half of the expenditure. For keeping up the level of efficiency in the matter of teaching, I beg to submit that the Managers of private schools have to be encouraged as far as possible, and if in small villages you don't get sufficient number of students to get this minimum strength, the Managers cannot do anything towards that. They can only start schools and invite all people who want to study to come to the school and provide all facilities for education. But they cannot by any means ensure that the minimum number do attend the school. That is a thing beyond possibility. So, wherever new schools have been started, and if the Director thinks that a particular school is necessary in that particular locality, concession should be made to help such Managers, irrespective of the fact whether they comply with the rule of minimum strength.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It is not merely a question of whether the school is necessary in the locality, but whether the Managers and teachers have exerted themselves to bring in sufficient number of pupils to study in the schools. In some cases we find on enquiry that a good number of children are running about in the place and not attending the school. So we come to understand that the teachers have taken no great pains to bring in pupils. So the fault is on them.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—That means if you are satisfied you make a concession.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—If there are children about the place and they don't go to the schools, it means something is wrong there.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—Primary education has not been made compulsory. If there is a law like that, teachers could compel the persons to send their children to school.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.— We have been trying to get students by means of persuasive or voluntary compulsion.

President.—You press for a division or you withdraw the motion?

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—I press this motion for a division. In doing so, I have only to point out that, in the case of expenses of the Government for giving education, it has been proved that only half the expenditure has to be incurred in the case of a student undergoing study in aided school, whereas double the amount has to be spent in the case of a student if he is in the Government School. So it has to be learned that the Government is gaining a vast amount every year on account of having the aided institutions. So, no rule is to be enforced in the case of aided schools which is not equally enforced in the case of Government institutions also. I do not understand the reason why in the case of Government institutions also any measure is not taken if there is a vast deficiency of strength. So, it is rather an injustice done towards the Managers. So, I request all the Members of this House to consider the question and see that some relaxation is made for the difficulty experienced by the Managers on account of this unwise step taken towards them by the Government.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Are not these schools started out of philanthropic motives?

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Yes, but sufficient encouragement should be given to them by the Government.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, what is your objection in introducing this Travancore system?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It is primarily in the interests of our teachers. They do get much more now.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Last year also I brought a motion to this effect. May I know from the Director whether he has taken any steps in this direction in accordance to the motion that has been passed in this House last year? Last year also I pressed the cut motion for this and the motion was carried also. May I know whether the Director has put that into effect?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I do not know what motion was carried last year.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—A cut of Rs. 2,000.

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Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—That has been faithfully carried out.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—So it was a substantial cut.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—We did not utilise that amount at all.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—I also wish to point out they did not act according to the spirit of the motion. That is what I understand.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The money was not utilised.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—That may be true. I press for a division.

Motion No. 14.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 13,09,300 under "Demand No. XVIII" by Rs. 100.*

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Before the motion is put to the vote, I may be allowed to speak something, because there is another similar motion in my name also, coming as number 14, one of the reasons given by me for the motion being the same. Now the main point that I urge is this. First, I understand the Director of Public Instruction to say that in such matters he has got some sort of discretion. If really there are such hard cases, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that hard cases make people sometimes dishonest. Now if a Manager understands really that it is not possible for him to satisfy your hard-and-fast rule of this minimum strength, he may sometimes manufacture false records with reference to the attendance register. You go and inspect the school only once in a year or you may probably get returns showing that there are actually the minimum or maximum strength prescribed by you, that is, 30 in Boys' Schools and 20 in Girls' Schools just to earn this grant. Now, if you really know that there are such things existing tempting people to resort to dishonest means on account of this hardship, can you not exercise some discretion in the matter? Really there are hard cases, which require consideration.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I have been exercising the right of discretion.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I think on that assurance the Member will not press the House to a division.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—So the Government will consider this hardship.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—May I take it as an assurance on the part of the Government?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It is stating as a matter of fact what I have been doing. There are a number of schools where you have less than 30.

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Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—My experience is that the rule is more strongly enforced.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You press your case again ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—May I know whether he has withdrawn ?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—He has withdrawn.

(*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 11.

Grant-in-aid.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,000 for this item.*

(*The Member being absent, the motion was considered withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 11A.

Mrs. G. Pavitran.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,48,055 for 'Primary Education—Boys' Schools' by Re. 1.*

Mrs. G. Pavitran.—Sir, my object in introducing this motion is to bring to the notice of this House the undesirability of deputing Music Mistresses to teach in two schools. First of all, the teacher will not be able to do full justice to her subject. The teaching of music in itself is a very severe strain on the physical resources of the teacher. (*Hear, hear.*) And it will be a very great hardship indeed if in addition to this she is asked to go from school to school. (*Hear, hear.*) As for the students, they will not be able to learn the subject properly from the teacher who visits the school only twice or thrice a week. For these reasons I would request the Government that they may be pleased to discontinue this practice.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, this matter has been brought to my notice also many a time but unfortunately somehow or other I forget it. Real cases have been brought to my notice. There is nothing more vexatious than going 4 miles or 3½ miles from one school to another. The only argument advanced is on the ground of economy. Whatever it is, it is rather very hard that these people should be made to walk from one place to another and that without any travelling allowance. That is the point. (*Laughter.*) You do not give any travelling allowance.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It depends upon the distance.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—If you give that, they may not complain of all these things. If not, they would rather have one school to oneself. But, if you think that, from the point of view of economy, it is going too far, at least they should be given adequate travelling allowance, for going from one school to another. These were the two requests they made many a time, and unfortunately many a time I have forgotten to bring this to the notice of the House. These people are given Needle-work also.

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Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Also Drawing. Well, Sir, the Department is quite as sympathetic towards them as the Member for Trichur and the Lady Member, and I may say that we have been translating our sympathy into action. If you take the state of things six years ago, there were lady teachers, who had as many as five schools to teach. We have been gradually reducing the number to four and then to three, and now there are few, who have got to teach in more than two schools and the schools may be about 3, 4 or 5 miles distant. (*Laughter.*) Now the matter, as it was put by the Member for Trichur, is capable of misconception. What happens is, if the teacher has got two schools to teach, she takes up her residence midway and she does not go to two schools on one and the same day. She is to go two days to one school and 3 days to another. I should very much like to see that no more than one school is given to a teacher. That means doubling your expenditure; and then there is another point also to be considered. In the case of small schools with 50 or 60 girls can you afford to give a full-time teacher? There is not sufficient work for such a teacher in a small school. It is not the volume of work, it is only the distance between the schools that causes trouble. If more funds are available, we should give relief, but any way there is a gradual, steady improvement, in the state of affairs.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Why not give them a consolidated travelling allowance?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The rules do not provide for travelling allowance.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You make the rules and so you can alter the rules.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Under what rules can we give them travelling allowance? Suppose the distance between the two schools is 3 miles and the teacher takes up her residence midway.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—With a river to ford.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—At times. Why not give them a consolidated allowance? They have to work in more than one school. Why not give a consolidated allowance of Rs. 5 or Rs. 7 at least to lady teachers who work in more than one school irrespective of any other consideration? By introducing this you will have to spend some 50 or 100 rupees. They have to teach in one school and then go to another school.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—In any case she will have to walk more than 5 miles a day.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—The teacher has to walk 2½ miles in the morning and 2½ miles in the evening. I think she will be tired.

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Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—No, no. She takes her residence midway and the schools are only 2½ or 3 miles apart. So she has to walk only 2½ or 3 miles a day.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—What is the pay given to them?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The lowest is Rs. 15.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The suggestion is to encourage our ladies.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The question of allowance may be considered. We cannot give a pledge; Government cannot give a pledge.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—At least Government will consider their case. That is enough.

Mrs. G. Pavitran.—On that assurance, I withdraw.

(*The motion was withdrawn with leave.*)

Motion No. 12.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for "Sports allowance" by Re. 1.*

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I move for the reduction of the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for 'Sports allowance' by one rupee. My object in tabling this motion, Sir, is to bring to the notice of this House the unsatisfactory condition in which the Trichur Palace Ground is kept and the failure of the Government to take adequate steps to improve the condition of that ground. Sir it is situated in the heart of the Trichur Town. It is one of the most beautiful places in Trichur. There are 4 High Schools and a College the students of which go and play there. It is left in a most neglected condition and it is most uncared for also.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Quite right.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—The Inter-school Sports, Inter-collegiate Sports, Football Tournaments, All-Kerala Football Tournaments, Police Sports and such like are conducted there. The Government also are aware that these grievances are genuine and they appointed a committee in which they admitted all these facts and the committee has made a report. Its first recommendation was to level the ground. Nobody, a casual visitor would not have noticed about the difference in level. There is much difference. The eastern side of that *Maidon* is 5 feet higher than the western end. And there are no race-courses also. There is an old dilapidated well in which there have been cases of cyclists falling down.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There is a parapet wall and as such he will have to jump over it to fall into it.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—There has been a case in which a cyclist fell into the well and he was taken into the Hospital.

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Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There is a parapet wall.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Not on all sides. I am sure. I am using that ground more than anybody in this House.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—My information is that there are parapet walls all round.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—No, Sir. I am positive about it. During sports we use to put iron fencing and ask somebody to stand near the well so that none should fall into it by mistake. It is in such a neglected condition, Sir, that something ought to be done at once. The Government knows it. A committee was appointed. The Government was reminded time and again about it and we received its Proceedings in which there was a promise for at least an allotment of Rs. 3,000 for levelling the ground this year. The Proceedings run thus :—"The Diwan made a local inspection and is of opinion that it is not desirable to spend a large sum of Rs. 13,700 as reported by the committee. At the same time it is considered necessary that the ground must be improved and got in proper condition. The construction of a masonry gallery is likely to affect the archaeological importance of the existing mud wall. As for the erection of a pavillion, this also can conveniently be put off till the improvement of the ground is effected. The amount already in the estimate for improving the ground is Rs. 2,847. A round sum of Rs. 3,000 will be provided in the P. W. Budget of 1104 for the works considered absolutely necessary." Even this Proceedings has not been given effect to and no provision has been made in the budget of 1104. Sir, it is a matter of urgent importance and I request that the Government will be pleased to look into the matter and take up the work at least in this year itself.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The provision will be made in the budget of 1104 itself.

Dr. A. R Menon.—I beg to support the previous speaker. I may say not only Rs. 3,000 must be spent upon it but even 10,000, so that it may be kept in proper condition, or dissolve the committee. There is no sort of promise, and the committee is going about without doing anything. Either carry on your intention, or we shall happily dissolve.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It was an omission so far as Education is concerned. The amount has been sanctioned. The work will be carried on in this year itself.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—You are going to ask for a supplementary grant?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The provision can be made this year if savings can be found.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, the definite promise in

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Proceedings has become a conditional promise now.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The work will be done early next year, from the savings of the P. W. D. Otherwise we can come in for an additional allotment.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—We have saved some Rs. 20,000 by a cut in the budget demand.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I beg to withdraw the motion.

(*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 13.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 13,09,300 under "Demand No. XVIII" by Re. 1.*

President.—Motion No. 13 by Mr. K. J. Antony.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—My object in tabling this motion is to bring to the notice of the Government the objectionable way in which the examiners are selected. I can understand if the examiners are selected from the Department itself, for being in touch with the Department they will know the standard to which our students are taught in our schools. But, if the selection is made from outside, I say, it should not be restricted to one particular individual alone. I do not see how that particular individual alone is qualified to be an examiner. I should like to know who were the examiners in English last year.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Last year we had several English examiners of which one was an outsider.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—I should like to know who was the outsider.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Of course, it was mentioned several times in the Legislative Council, Mr. Padmanabha Menon.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—I do not say that particular individual is qualified or not qualified to be an examiner, but I would suggest it would be much better to select examiners from the Department itself. They know the standard well. We have got ever so many graduates in Literature, Science, Mathematics and History. I would suggest the selection may be confined to the Department itself.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to support the motion from an altogether different basis. I am not grudging Mr. Padmanabha Menon being made an examiner, but I would request the Government to throw it open to all the members of the Bar, so much so the starving lawyers can have something.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What about medicine? We are also starving as lawyers.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sir, it should not be worked on a commercial line. That is my request. (*Hear, hear.*)

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Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Any reply wanted from me?

Mr. K. J. Antony.—I withdraw the motion.

(*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 14.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 13,09,300 under "Demand No. XVIII" by Rs. 100.*

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Sir, my object in moving this token cut is to bring to the notice of the Government two things, *viz.*, (1) the desirability of making certain changes in the method of giving grants to private educational institutions and (2) the improvement that has to be effected in the working of the Text-Book Committee in recommending text-books.

The first point has been sufficiently brought out to the attention of the Government by some of the other Hon'ble Members when they moved certain other cuts. I do not, therefore, wish to take up the time of the House by reiterating all that has been said on the point.

I would, therefore, pass on to the other matter, *i. e.*, the matter of text-books. There are at present two bodies working in this direction—a Text-Book Committee and a Board of Studies. The latter body is one composed of a few of the members of the former, *i. e.*, the Text-Book Committee. It seems that the Text-Book Committee is divided into a number of sub-committees, one for selection of vernacular text, and another for English, a third for Mathematics and Science, etc. Most of the members of this Committee are Head-masters or Head-mistresses of High Schools with a few non-officials. The President of the Committee is the Senior Inspector of Schools. There is a Malayalam Improvement Committee in the State. A few of the members of that Committee are members of this Text-Book Committee. I understand that the Senior Inspector of Schools is the Secretary of this Improvement Committee. I am emphatically of opinion that no member of the Malayalam Improvement Committee should be a member of the Text-Book Committee. I am also of opinion that the Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies should be mutually exclusive bodies and independent of each other. The Senior Inspector of Schools should not be the President of these Committees. The reasons are obvious.

During the last Budget Session, there was a cut motion moved in this House and carried, the point at issue being the unsatisfactory working of this Text-Book Committee and the various defects in the books prescribed as texts for our boys and girls. There was a lot of complaint that this body was not working properly and that the Government should do something to improve matters. Nothing probably was done by the Govern-

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ment in the matter. But the thing was not allowed to rest there by this Council. A resolution was moved in the Council during its last Legislative Session and the same was carried. The resolution urged for an inquiry into the working of this Committee and also to take measures to put this statutory body in a proper working order. I am not aware of any *direct* action, taken by the Government in this matter. I say direct because I find that the Director of Public Instruction and the Government are trying to do something indirectly. (*Hear, hear.*) I shall be more explicit. A set of books, which seem to have been rejected by the Text-Book Committee, is I understand, now sought by the Government to be placed before the Board of Studies for selection. I am sure that the Director of Public Instruction and the Government would have done this only when they were satisfied that there was some injustice done in the matter by the Text-Book Committee. My point of complaint is this. If you are satisfied that the action of the Committee was improper or that their working was unsatisfactory, dissolve that Committee at once or eliminate all the undesirable elements (*hear, hear*) therefrom and have a properly constituted Committee, which will function fairly and impartially. The function of this Committee should be not to espouse the interests of any particular author or publisher, irrespective of the merits of his publication. (*Hear, hear.*) Its function is to recommend the best books. The Committee must be made to do its duty like that. Instead of that, if you act against their recommendations, it will look awkward. It will be unconstitutional. I have nothing to say against the Government's present action on its *merits*. You might have done it in the best interest of our boys and girls. I am concerned only with the constitutional aspect of the matter.

There is another point on which I wish to lay stress in this connection. When you prescribe a book as a text, do it after careful scrutiny of its merits, and when once you make such a selection, give it a pretty long lease of life—say, at least five years. Otherwise it will be a drain on the slender purses of many a parent (*hear, hear*). If any of your present text-books are unsatisfactory, by no means continue them. Prescribe the best books and allow them a long term.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Sir, about more than a year ago, I was nominated by the Government as a Member of this House in the Text-Book Committee and in the Board of Studies. I have had the occasion to know the working of this Committee for the last one year. And when the resolution was passed in the House, I also expressed my opinion that it is desirable to constitute a small committee to investigate into the working of the Text-Book Committee for the last two years. Government has not taken, as far as I can understand, any steps towards this.

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Now, Sir, what I want to emphasise in this House is that the action of the Government after constituting the Text-Book Committee has been, I believe, unconstitutional. The Text-Book Committee is to do the function of approving books, and out of those books which are approved by the Text-Book Committee, the Board of Studies prescribes the text-books. So there are two processes of filtration one by the Text-Book Committee by approving certain books and the other by the Board of Studies—they make the selection and they prescribe particular books as text-books. A set of text-books came before the Text-Book Committee for approval and for certain reasons they did not consider those books worthy of being accepted in the particular condition they were sent and, therefore, the Text-Book Committee rejected those books, and sent them back. That party complained to the Government evidently and we found some months back in the Gazette a notification that the very same books were approved by the Government. The Government afterwards placed them before the Board of Studies asking their opinion whether they would be prescribed as text-books. I raised in the Board of Studies my voice of protest against the action of the Government saying that the Government was not justified in placing a book which has not been passed through the initial stage of the approval of the Text-Book Committee. So, that action of the Government is unconstitutional and I protested. But somehow or other an opinion was sent by the Board of Studies that those text-books were not proper to be prescribed as text-books now. Now there are several members in the Text-Book Committee who are doing the work honourably and for the Government to go behind the Text-Book Committee and approve the books is a stigma on the work of the Text-Book Committee. If the Text-Book Committee is not working satisfactorily in the opinion of the Government the proper procedure would be to dissolve it, as the Hon'ble Member for Vellarappalli has said, and institute another committee, which would work satisfactorily. My submission is that the Government went out of their way in approving the books on their own responsibility. Now even those books that are rejected have come up to be prescribed as text-books. I had an occasion to go through one of these, and I have one copy of it with me now. This House consists of several learned Members in several branches of Science and I shall just read this book and give them new pieces of information. This is what is told to the first class students (infant class, I mean) ഭിശ്വജങ്ങൾ എട്ടെണ്ണമുണ്ട്, അവർ റബ്ബർ കൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്നു.

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Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I take objection to read it. It should not be read in this House. The Government wanted the opinion of the Board of Studies and so they were sent to the Board of Studies for approval.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—There is difference between approving and prescribing. Approving is done by the Text-Book Committee and after approval for prescribing they go to the Board of Studies.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The Government did know that.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—Sir, I rise to a point of order. With respect to the particular merits and demerits of the books which have been approved by the Government, the Member should not be allowed to criticise or plead in this House. The Member should not be allowed to plead for a particular book before this House: for then, there will be other Members to plead contra. Is this House constituted to hear the merits or demerits of text-books? That, I believe, is not our function. Therefore, the Hon'ble Member should not be allowed to refer to any passage in that book.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—In order to point out the specific reasons why the Text-Book Committee did not approve those books I should like to read this.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The fact is this, Sir. These books were taken before the Text-Book Committee some three years back, and the Text-Book Committee did not submit the report for certain reasons, and when the publishers pleaded to the Government, the Government took the initiative.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I was also present when these books were rejected. Some books were rejected by the previous Committee,.....

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I contradict that statement, Sir. They were sent back for certain alterations which were found necessary, and those books were re-submitted and the Text-Book Committee rejected them.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—All this is a matter of opinion.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—This is a statement of facts. Opinions you may draw.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—So my submission is only that the Government went out of their way. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. A. B. Salem.—On a point of information, Sir. May I know, when the publisher moved the Government to have it considered, whether the Government sent the books to the Text-Book Committee?

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Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Books were for three years before the Committee.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—May I know the procedure adopted in the acceptance of the books ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The Member says that Government adopted an unconstitutional procedure. In the first place, prescribing of text-books is the function of Government. The Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies merely submit recommendations to Government. The Department can also recommend. The Member said that a particular book was not placed before the Text-Book Committee. The Text-Book Committee dealt with it for three years and did not come to a definite conclusion. The publisher appealed to Government and the Government took up the matter and placed the book before the Board of Studies. The Government did not read through the book. The Government could only prescribe books of acknowledged merit. When the Government had expert opinion regarding particular books, they could, of their own initiative, prescribe them as text-books. The right of prescribing texts rests absolutely with Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then we are for a change in the system.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—Sir, a resolution was passed in this Council to the effect that a committee should be appointed to enquire into the working of this Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies. But nothing has yet been done. The Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies stand condemned by this Council. But the Government has not done anything either to inquire into the matter or to dissolve the Committee. But in the interim, things have to go on. The Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies were condemned by this Council, and I think that the Director has acted quite properly in taking the matter into his own hands and in recording his approval with respect to a certain set of books.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Not the Director, but the Government.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—The proper authority for doing so would no doubt have been the Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies. But the Council had already passed a resolution condemning the action of the Text-Book Committee and Board of Studies and carrying a motion of non-confidence in their action. As such, the Government could not have much confidence at their hands, and I believe the Government proceeded rightly in taking the matter in-

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to their own hands and in approving the text-books under discussion.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Neither that did the Government do.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—The Government have placed these books before the Board of Studies, and the action of the Government has been proper, and was actuated by a proper desire to do the correct thing. But the delay in forming that committee and searching out what is actually wrong in the personnel of the Board of Studies is not at all pardonable. On this ground, Sir, I beg to support the motion.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It is not correct to say that Government have taken no action. The books that were criticied last year were t he productions of the Malayalam Improvement Committee and the reconstitution of that Committee is now engaging the attention of Government.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—On a point of order. Yesterday you said there was nothing.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—That was about the formation of a committee. Even that the Government is prepared to do. It is not six months since the resolution was passed. In the meantime, soon after the discussions of last year and the criticisms levelled against the books prepared by the Malayalam Improvement Committee,—

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Certain books, not all.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Government thought that the matter should be looked into, and so the reconstitution of the Committee is now under consideration. The Department has done its part, and the matter is now before Government. So that, it would be incorrect to say that, after the criticisms of last year, Government had done nothing in the matter.

And then as regards the Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies. From what the Members on the other side spoke, it would appear that these are permanent bodies constituted for all time. They are constituted for two years or three years only, and if they do not do their work well, Government will have the wisdom, and the fairness to see that a change is effected in the personnel of the Committee.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—That is the main object.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The periods for which the present Board of Studies and Text-Book Committee were constituted are nearly over.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—That is one of the promises we want.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Even without any demand from this House, when the term of the Committee is over, the Government will be bound to constitute another committee.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know, Sir, whether you accept the statement that only books approved by the Text-Book Committee will be prescribed and after that the text-book should not be changed once in 5 years?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The right rests with the Government and the Government very seldom goes against the recommendations of the Committee.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I only ask a pointed question. Our division will be upon that. Whether you accept the position that only books approved by the Text-Book Committee will be prescribed and whether text-books will not be changed except once in 5 years?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—There is a confusion of issues here. Most of the Members have been saying that the present Text-Book Committee has not been functioning properly, and so also the Board of Studies and the Malayalam Improvement Committee. I don't think most of the Members, who now spoke, disputed the authority of Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Yes, we dispute. Once a book is prescribed, it must be in the list for 5 years.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Now the period is 3 years, and it does not follow that every book after three years is withdrawn and a new book is prescribed. If the Committee is satisfied that after three years thre is no better book in the field, the same book will continue for another three years. You say the period has to be changed from 3 to 5 years. Very many books have continued for 6 years, because the committee found that there was no better book. The Madras University change their texts every year. In all these Public Examinations they change every year.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—In the matter of prescribing text-books, supposing selections of portions of books are prescribed, I would say, what the Madras University does is, that they publish these selected portions and frame it into a book. Here what happens is, if a particular portion is selected from a particular book, the whole book has to be purchased by the students. Now it is so. Now, if a particular book is prescribed, only some portion of it is taught, and the boy has to purchase the whole book all the same. So far as the Madras University is concerned, they only select portions of books and all these combined form a book. And then they fix a price. Now there are the vagaries of publishers. You publish one price in the Gazette, and when the boy goes to purchase the book, he has to pay a different price. Prescribe a book and let it have a long lease of life, so that much money may be saved—it is not that proper books should not be prescribed.

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Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I think there are very few cases where the whole is not prescribed. If a book is prescribed, the whole has to be taught. There are very few cases. I don't think Government have any objection to extend the period from 3 to 5. Even as it is, there are several books that enjoy not only three years but six years and even more.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—But that period should come into force after the present books are changed. We don't want to be the hump of the camel having water. We want the period should be extended to five years. We all agree. That is a Party question.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—That does not mean that the books that are now prescribed should necessarily be continued if they are found to be useless. Prescribe good text-books. Let them have a sufficiently long lease of life. I want to make this matter clear. I should not be understood to say that, if the present text-books are found unsatisfactory, they should be continued.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We don't press for the same books to be continued. An efficient committee may be appointed and the books they select should be put in the schools for five years here. We don't want to perpetuate the same thing. That is the distinct understanding.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—On that assurance, I withdraw the motion.

(*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 15.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—*To reduce the total allotment for "Education" of Rs. 12,01,166 by Rs. 29,000.*

(*The motion was, the Member being absent, considered withdrawn.*)

Question put:—*That a sum of Rs. 12,01,166 minus Rs. 10 under "Demand No. XVIII—Education" be granted by the House.*

Question put and agreed to.

Questions and Answers.—(*cont.*)

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I shall take this opportunity of answering the Member for Jews.

What happened was that the contractor complained saying that his dues were held up. That petition of the contractor was forwarded to me for report and this is the letter that I received to the reference of the Government on the contractor's petition.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No, sir, my only point is when did the Government find that it was impossible to find money by means of transfers or by means of savings.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—This letter is dated 31st May 1928 and I wrote:— "I have the honour to inform you

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